Available information as on 31st December, 1990 in respect of 20 nationalised banks is as under :—

Sl. No.	Cadre	Total strength	Of them representation of		Backlog	
			SCs	STs	SCs	STs
1.	Officers	151151	14441	4582	164	132
2.	Clerks	291343	42625	11509	425	341
3.	Sub-Staff	108531	24869	6274	321	38[illegible]
4.	Sweepers	24252	11276	1144	not applicable	

(b) Banks are continuously making efforts to clear the backlogs. However, owing to various reasons such as non-availability of suitable candidates, court injunctions, etc., it has not been possible to clear the same completely.

[English]

RAIDS CONDUCTED DURING 1990 AND 1991

1383. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of raids conducted by income tax; customs and other revenue enforcement authorities during 1990 and 1991 (upto 30 June), collectorate-wise;

(b) the details of cash, jewellery, other assets and incriminating documents seized in these raids, collectorate-wise; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

EXPORT GROWTH RATE

1384. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export growth rate has declined in some sectors including precious stones, jewellery, marine products and chemicals during 1990-91;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the decline in export growth rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The major sectors in respect of which export growth rate registered a decline during 1990-91 as compared to the growth rate in 1989-90 and the details thereof, are given below :—

Exports Sectors	%Growth Rate	
	1989-90/1988-89	1990-91/1989-90
1. Plantations	+42.0	+6.5
2. Agricultural and allied Products	+43.6	+41.3
3. Ores and Minerals	+34.4	+22.8
4. Leather & Leather manufactures	+31.1	+30.9
5. Gems & Jewellery	+20.4	—1.6
6. Chemicals and related products	+91.5	+7.5
7. Engineering goods	+41.7	+18.8
8. Textiles	+43.6	+27.2
9. Handicrafts	+23.7	+6.5
10. Carpets	+24.7	+6.3
11. Petroleum Products	+38.0	+34.6

However, the export growth rate in respect of marine products increased from 8.6% in 1989-90 to 39.8% in 1990-91.

(c) There are a number of factors responsible for deceleration of export growth rate during 1990-91. These include : slowdown in world economy, Gulf crisis, recession in USA, recession in global diamond trade, the difficult law and order situation in Assam, cyclone in Andhra Pradesh, tighter import regime and monetary measure to curb imports, etc.

[English]

EVASION OF CENTRAL SALES-TAX AND INCOME-TAX

1385. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of merchandise brought to Delhi from other parts of the country on Central Sales Tax forms are heavily under-invoiced resulting in loss of revenues to the Government in the shape of Income-tax and Central sales-tax and and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) No such large scale evasion of C.S.T., Sales Tax and Income Tax has come to Government notice. However, as and where any information is received about tax evasion in any particular case(s), appropriate action is taken.

DECLARATION OF WEST COAST CANAL IN KERALA AS NATIONAL WATERWAY

1386. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested the Union Government to declarge the entire stretch of the West Coast Canal as National Waterway ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala had requested for declaring the entire West Coast Canal including Champakara and Udyogmandal canals as National Waterway. The length of this Waterway from Trivandrum in the south to Kasargode in the north, including Champakara and Udyogmandal canals is 659 Kms. The techno-economic feasibility studies conducted by the Inland Waterways Authority of India has revealed that only the Quilon-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal including Champakara and Udyogmandal canals is likely to be viable for development as National Waterway. No decision has been taken in this regard.

LOSS TO LEATHER EXPORTERS DUE TO WITHDRAWAL OF C.C.S. BENEFITS

1387. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) has requested for extension of Cash Compensatory Scheme benefits at least till September, 1991;

(b) the quantum of loss leather exporters are likely to suffer on ongoing contracts because of withdrawal of CCS benefits; and

(c) the extent to which devaluation of rupee may affect leather exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The combined effect of withdrawal of CCS depreciation of the rupee and enhancement of replenishment rates on ongoing contracts and leather exports will vary from contract to contract and from one leather product to another. However, it is expected that there will not be any adverse impact on leather exports.